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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

## INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO. [REDACTED]

COUNTRY France

DATE DISTR. 5 April 1949

SUBJECT Activities of RPF to Prevent Service  
d'Ordre Coup 20-21 March

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE  
ACQUIRED [REDACTED]NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)

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DATE OF INFO  
25X1XSUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

It was reported on 21 March that Jules Moch, Minister of the Interior, was preparing an attack on Communist centers in France and that he intended to place the blame for this action on the RPF.

25X1X [REDACTED] Moch planned to liquidate both parties as a result of the action he had provoked. The following [REDACTED] 25X1X

25X1X [REDACTED] is a partial explanation of why the projected action did not take place and a summary of the interpretation of the affair as made by RPF circles. 25X1X

1. Unidentified provocateurs in the ranks of the RPF Service d'Ordre exploited the dissatisfaction of former high-ranking Groupes de Protection members demoted in the new SO set-up and induced them to take action against the Communists. Information concerning the coup planned by some of the SO units reached Gaullist headquarters as well as the Ministry of the Interior.
2. At a meeting on 20 March 1949, General de Gaulle and his staff concluded that the provocation was intended to commit the RPF to a "monumental error", to turn public opinion against the movement and to give the Government reason to outlaw the Party. All SO groups were ordered to take no action of any kind, and every effort was made to head off those SO units which planned to take independent action.
3. Jules Moch, on the other hand, when informed that provocateurs had incited SO units to action, mobilized police at Palais de l'Elysee, Place de la Concorde and in large numbers around the offices of Humanite and Communist headquarters.\* One source reports that the provocateurs were actually in the employ of Jules Moch.
4. Andre Doulan, of Villacoublay and adjutant of SO Brigade 17, received orders through a dissident member of the Brigade to "seize" Villacoublay Airfield. Those orders were carried out before RPF headquarters could countermmand the order. An RPF liaison officer reached the airfield shortly after it had been "captured" and instructed the group to withdraw.
5. Although no large-scale Government-RPF clashes were reported, source stated that at least 40 RPF members were arrested. No publicity has been given these arrests.

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Document No. [REDACTED]  
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- 25X1X 6. An article appeared in pro-WF L'Aurore on 25 March under the headline "Tragi-Comedy at Prefecture of Police. Stalinist Commissaire attempts Mount WF Plot but Provocation Forestalled and Author Relieved of his Function". [REDACTED] the article was published as a "trial balloon" to provoke a reaction from the Government press. [REDACTED] the article deliberately misrepresented the facts and implied that the entire affair was a result of Communist provocation. 25X1X

25X1X [REDACTED]

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